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SATURDAY
MARCH 27, 1954

Tommy came to the house this morning and we went over a telegram on the Bidault-Mollet conversation which was later dispatched in these terms:

"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 215. NIACT.

"LIMITED DISTRIBUTION.

"1. We have been advised in strictest confidence through Mollet adviser of Mollet's version of understanding reached in his meeting with Bidault Friday morning on direct election of EDC and CSC Common Assembly.

"a. A few days after Belgian elections on April 11 French Government will invite other EDC governments to begin negotiations to draft a Treaty providing for direct election of CSC and EDC Common Assembly as foreseen in CSC Treaty.

"b. Assumption is that French government would have called for date for ratification debate on EDC Treaty before or at same time and that US guarantees and UK-EDC association will have been announced publicly so that Extraordinary Socialist Congress can be scheduled immediately for second week in May and preparations for it undertaken.

"c. Before Extraordinary Congress agreement would be reached between EDC governments on a statement of principles as a basis for drafting a Treaty on direct election of EDC-CSC Assembly after EDC ratification. Mollet would drop request for Treaty to be signed by Governments before ratification debate. Presumably ratification debate would commence third week in May.

"d. Statement of principles would ~~provide for universal suffrage~~ initially on basis of existing electoral laws in each country, for Assembly approval of appointments of EDC Commissariat and for ~~responsibility~~ of Commissariat before Assembly. Mollet would abandon his request for seven additional deputies to represent overseas territories.

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"2. Our source states Mollet is now waiting for confirmation of this understanding in writing from Bidault. There was no discussion of forum in which statement of principles would be negotiated but in preparations with Mollet for his talk with Bidault it was suggested that EDC Interim Committee should be forum.

"3. This information should be held in strictest confidence until it is finally confirmed. Under no circumstances should our knowledge of these negotiations as they progress be divulged. BRUCE."

Nancy Lancaster, E. and I made a quick little tour on the Left Bank in the course of which I acquired a soup tureen of the same Luxembourg china of which Dr. Bech is so enamored. It is an attractive blue and white piece. I also saw my old friend Madame Baalbrek tottering around in the midst of her collections of antique glass.

There was nothing particularly new at the office except the ever-new difficulties over a possible Saar agreement.

André de Staercke lunched with us and I had a good talk with him afterwards about how the passage of EDC in France might be facilitated if Spaak became the next Foreign Minister in Belgium following elections there on April 11.

E., Nancy and I went out this afternoon to Versailles and spent the night.

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